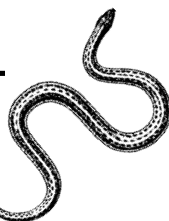




willow

Nature's Call

An Activity Newsletter for Kids by Utah's Project WILD--Fall 1996

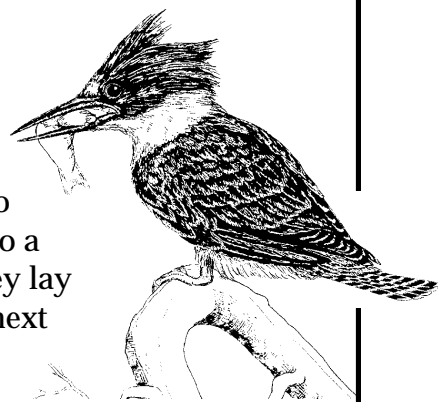


garter snake

Riparian Residents

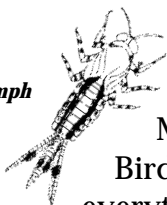
Places where water and land meet are very important. Since they are so important they have a special name. They are called riparian areas. Many plants and animals live in riparian areas. Wild animals need water to drink and plants need water to grow. People need riparian areas, too. These green areas help keep water clean and the land healthy. Read about some of the animals that live in Utah's riparian areas.

Now this is a wild bird! Watch the kingfisher dive from its perch high in a tree. This blue and white bird plunges into the water head first. It is trying to catch a fish. When it catches a fish it flies home to feed its young. Kingfishers live underground. They dig a tunnel into a river bank with their strong feet and beaks. Safely underground, they lay their eggs and raise their young. Listen for its loud rattling call the next time you visit a riparian area.

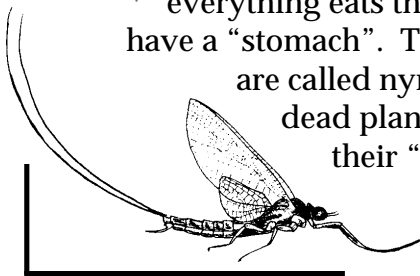


Kingfisher

mayfly nymph



Insects feed the world. They are one of the first links in almost all food chains. Mayflies are insects. They feed many hungry animals in riparian food chains. Birds eat them. Lizards eat them. Salamanders eat them. Fish eat them. Almost everything eats them! What do they eat? Nothing! They can't! Adult mayflies do not have a "stomach". They only eat when they are young. During this stage of their life they are called nymphs. They do not have wings and they live underwater. They eat dead plants. During the summer they crawl out of the water. Then they shed their "skin" and "stomachs" and fly away with their new wings. Mayflies are important and interesting.



Mayfly-Adult

Salamanders are always on the lookout. They are looking for food. Salamanders usually hunt during the night. They look for insects and earthworms. They also watch for animals that might eat them. Fish eat salamanders. Foxes eat salamanders. Snakes eat salamanders. These riparian residents are amphibians and are always found near water. They lay their eggs in water. The eggs hatch into young salamanders. During this stage in their life they look like a fish. They even have gills like a fish and can breathe underwater. After a couple of months they change into adults. You can find adult salamanders in riparian areas under leaves and rotting logs.

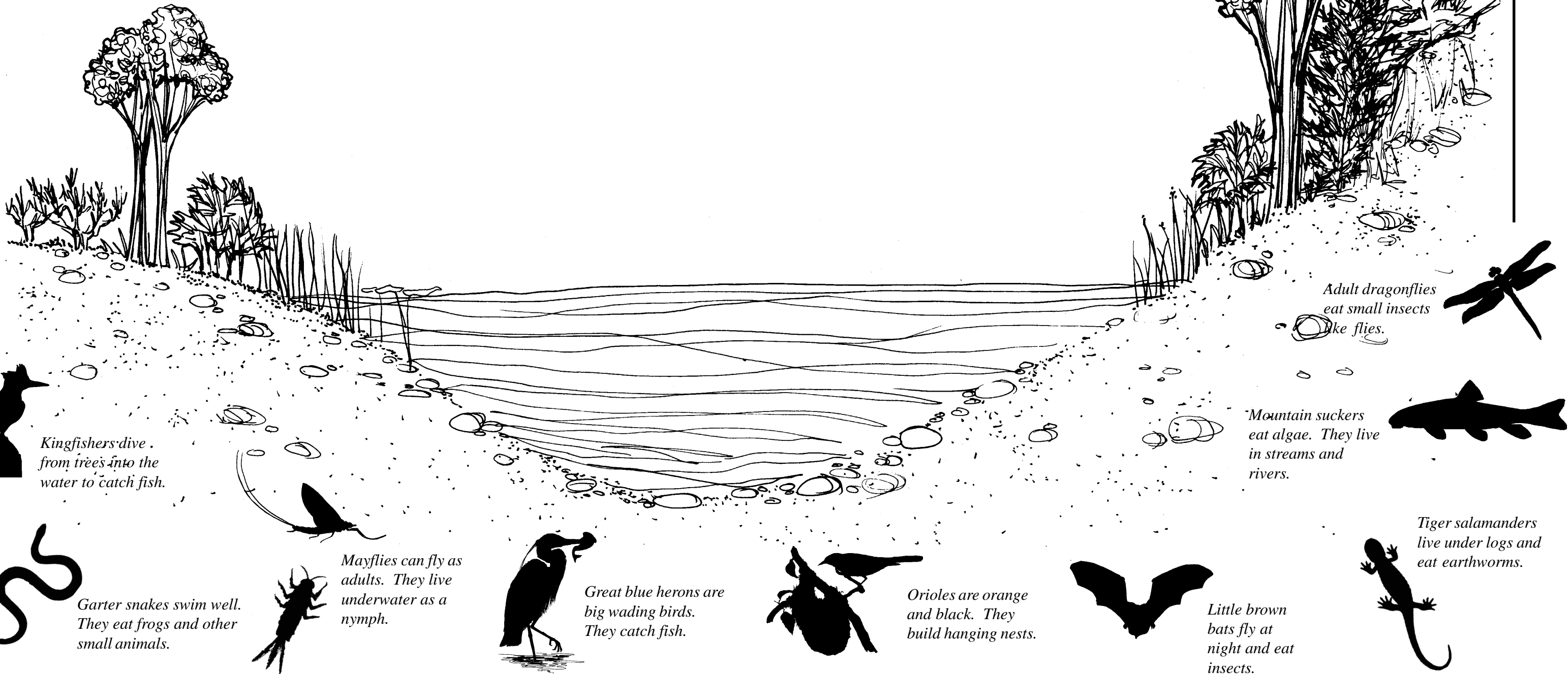
Tiger Salamander



Where water meets the land...the riparian zone.

Riparian areas are important places for wildlife. Riparian areas provide animals with food, water and shelter. Riparian areas are important to people, too. They help keep water clean, protect land from erosion and are peaceful places to visit.

Look at the animals on this page. They need a place to live. Help them find a home. Draw in the animals in a place they might like to live.



Complete this riparian food web. Write the name of the animal in the blank below each box: **salamander, sharp-shinned hawk, mayfly, great blue heron, kingfisher, mountain sucker, caterpillar, fly larva, oriole**. Starting with the sun, follow the flow of energy. Color the sun and arrows **red**. Now, color the boxes and circles. **Green** is for producers. **Blue** is for consumers. **Yellow** is for decomposers.

larva of colorful
flying insect

bird which weaves
hanging nest

hawk that hunts
songbirds

willow

SUN

algae

insect which eats
dead animals

fish with teeth
in its throat

bright blue
diving bird

large wading
bird

delicate insect
which flies

amphibian
with a tail